

BUILDING LINES ON CERTAIN STREETS IN THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA, ETC.

MAY 19, 1898.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BABCOCK, from the Committee on the District of Columbia,
submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10106.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10106) to provide for the establishment of building lines on certain streets in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, after careful consideration of the same, report the bill back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

This bill was prepared by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and introduced into the House at their request. It has the unanimous approval of the committee, and the following communication from the Commissioners, which your committee incorporate as a part of their report, will fully explain the desirability of the proposed legislation:

OFFICE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, April 23, 1898.

DEAR SIR: The Commissioners have the honor to transmit herewith a draft of a bill to provide for the establishment of building lines on certain streets in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, and recommend early and favorable action thereon.

During past years, on a number of occasions, citizens of the District have desired to establish building lines upon some of the narrow streets where the lots were deep. It is evident that, without compulsory legislation, where one or two residents in a block refuse to accede to such building lines the efforts of the remaining property owners are in vain, since it is necessary that all the buildings in one square should be on one line. Hence in a number of instances efforts made by owners to establish building lines have proved abortive through the lack of cooperation of one person.

On a number of streets in the northwest section of the city building lines have been established along a portion of a street by the concurrence of the land owners, and the streets, though narrow, present a handsome appearance, with ample width of roadway, sidewalk, and parking; while a few squares farther along, where the property owners did not establish such line, the appearance of the street and its sanitary condition is badly marred. The bill submitted is designed to remedy this condition of affairs.

As a general rule where lots are deep it is believed that the establishment of the building line would work no hardship to the land owners. But there are instances

of corner lots where the establishment of building lines on two streets abutting would take away so much of the land as to render the remainder of the lot unavailable for building purposes, and in such cases the owner of said lots should receive compensation.

It is believed the bill is a desirable one and that its operation would be attended by no cost to the District of Columbia or to the United States.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. ROSS,

President Board of Commissioners District of Columbia.

Hon. J. W. BABCOCK,

Chairman Committee on the District of Columbia, House of Representatives.

